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AUTHOR	Tisdell, Elizabeth J.
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ABSTRACT

This book discusses how spiritual development is informed by culture, how spirituality assists in meaning making, and how understanding the relationship between culture and spirituality can help adult educators make their students' educational experiences more transformative and culturally relevant. Particular attention is paid to spirituality's potential role in teaching for cultural relevance with multicultural populations in higher and adult education. The following are among the topics discussed: (1) the relationship between culture, spirituality, and adult learning; (2) defining spirituality in a culturally relevant educational context; (3) spirituality, religion, and culture in lived experience; (4) themes and variations of spiritual experience; (5) spiritual development as a process of moving forward and spiraling back; (6) gender, culture, and spiritual identity in midlife integration; (7) the role of spiritual experience in developing a positive cultural identity; (8) searching for wholeness, crossing culture, white identity, and spiritual development; (9) approaching transformative teaching through teaching grounded in spirituality and cultural relevance; (10) the philosophical underpinnings of an evolving theory of a spiritually grounded, culturally relevant pedagogy; (11) stories from the field of adult education that illustrate the roles of spirituality and culture in adult higher education classrooms; and (12) the possibilities and challenges of spiritually grounded, culturally relevant teaching. The bibliography lists 204 references. (MN)

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